



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

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## **PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

### **MEEETING MINUTES**

**February 3, 2022**

The Parks & Recreation Committee conducted a virtual meeting on Thursday February 3, 2022 via GoToMeeting, pursuant to notice duly posted.

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Gary Bauer
- Drew Bodington
- Tim Cepetelli
- Paul Hoydick
- Sean Kennedy
- Rick Marcone
- Bill O'Brien – 9<sup>th</sup> District Councilman and Chairman

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- Sean Kennedy
- Ken Poisson

#### **ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Catherine Proto

#### **TOWN REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Chad Esposito – Parks Superintendent
- Amy Knorr – Recreation Superintendent

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, welcomed returning members and introduced new member Tim Cepetelli.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. O'Brien accepted a motion from Mr. Marcone to approve the minutes of the regular 12/2/2021 meeting. Mr. Hoydick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### III. REPORT OF THE PARKS SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Esposito reported on the following:

- Christmas tree removal is complete.
- They are trimming trees prior to the next snowfall.
- Crews are going through their inventory, and doing routine maintenance for such during the off-season.
- The order for snow removal is: the 400 miles of streets, public safety buildings, schools and Town buildings, then the sidewalks and crosswalks of parks. The latter is usually done 24-48 hours after the storm ends.

Questions were posed to, and answered by, Mr. Esposito.

### IV. REPORT OF THE RECREATION SUPERINTENDANT

- Winter programs are ongoing at Birdseye and the Baldwin Center in the evenings. Masks are required indoors. Youth programs are mostly held in the Baldwin Center, while Girls Basketball is in Birdseye.
- Ella Grasso Pool – Swim lessons and adult open swims are ongoing, as well as Aqua Aerobics classes. Ms. Knorr noted the Rec. Dept. is sharing the pool with the YMCA while their pool is being repaired. She added Flood is allowing the YMCA to use the pool for their swim team.
- She certified six new lifeguards, who will work for the Rec. Dept. in Summer. In May, she will have a recertification class for those lifeguards who need it.
- Residents continue to come into the office for new beach stickers.
- Boothe Hall rentals continue in Winter.

Questions were posed to, and answered by, Ms. Knorr.

### V. CONTINUING ITEMS

- A. Flood Baseball Field – No discussion was held.
- B. Pickleball Courts – Ms. Knorr explained the gym floor in Birdseye was scheduled to be redone in January. Workers found however that the lines had been taped down rather than painted. The costs for removing the glue and painting new lines is much more costly than originally estimated, and will probably need approval to go out to bid.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Longbrook Park Tennis Courts – Plans distributed to members (see attached). Mr. Esposito stated there will be a Public Hearing on Feb. 24 to discuss the tree plans at this location.
- Mr. Cepetelli stated the new fence location at Bunnell HS is a safety issue for those sledding there, and suggested posting “warning” signage. Mr. Esposito will discuss the matter with Director of Public Works Raynae Serra. Mr. Hoydick questioned the possibility of using hay bales around dangerous edges. Mr. Esposito explained that could be a problem when it rains, as they could then become blocks of ice. Per Mr. O’Brien, this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Pollinator Garden – Mr. Esposito explained there are many logistics to determine how this could be done successfully, such as size, location and watering for the first season. He added that residents often think it looks unkempt.

VII. NEXT MEETING – Thursday March 3, 2022 at 6:00pm

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. O'Brien accepted a motion by Mr. Hoydick to adjourn at 6:23pm. Mr. Bodington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Aileen Marsh*

Recording Secretary



